

# North Andover

## Community and Business

# NEWSLETTER



### SENIOR HOME VISITS

Attention North Andover Seniors: Are you lonely. Do you need someone to visit with you and chat, learn a hobby, teach a hobby or just make a friend? The North Andover Senior Center is looking for seniors who would like a Friendly Visitor to visit them one hour a week to chat and call a few times a week. This will keep you in touch with the outside world.

### VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

The North Andover Senior Center is looking for Volunteers to visit lonely, home-bound seniors living in North Andover. Volunteers are asked to visit at least one hour a week and call a few times a week to chat and keep them in touch with the outside world. Learn a hobby, teach a hobby and make a friend.

For more information please call the Program Coordinator Sandy Flaherty at 978 688 9560 or email: [sflaherty@townofnorthandover.com](mailto:sflaherty@townofnorthandover.com).

## Exciting Times At Merrimack College

### Merrimack College Hockey will play outside at Fenway Park

Each year Fenway Park installs an outdoor hockey rink and opens its gates to host college hockey games. This year Merrimack College will participate against the Friars of Providence College on Jan. 4, 2014. This is Merrimack's first time playing at historic Fenway Park. The 17-day event will run from Sunday, Dec. 28, to Monday, Jan. 13.



### New World-Class Facility Opens

Merrimack College recently opened its doors to a new addition at the Volpe Athletic Center, creating a truly world-class facility. The expanded area increased the size of the facility by nearly 85,000 square feet. Besides the new rink, the addition includes facilities for the sports teams, a new lobby and concession area, expanded luxury seats and a team pro shop! The additional rink can be used for many programs at various levels including the Islander Hockey Club from the U.S. Premier Hockey League. This will also serve to boost Merrimack's highly acclaimed Sports Medicine programs.

### UPDATE: Facilities Master Plan

**May 2010:** Annual Town Meeting (ATM) votes to appropriate \$150,000 to fund a Facilities Master Plan "to provide evaluation and design services for space needs associated with the various municipal and school departments". Town hires The Cecil Group.

**May 2012:** After extensive work by a designated Committee and a number of public meetings, a final Facilities Master Plan is issued and accepted by ATM. The projects are anticipated to be completed over a 7-10 year period and will be funded completely through the Capital Improvement Budget without requiring any tax overrides. ATM also votes to appropriate \$359,500 to fund architect/engineering design work for Kittredge School Gym (\$90,000) & School Dept. Admin Building (\$269,500).

**May 2013:** ATM votes to appropriate \$3,895,500 for construction of School Dept. Admin Building (\$2,425,500) and the Kittredge School Gymnasium (\$810,000). Also appropriated is architect/engineering design work for new Fire Station 1 (\$660,000).

Construction of the Kittredge School Gymnasium started this Fall and is expected to be completed in early Spring 2014. Construction of the School Administration Building is scheduled to start in early Spring 2014 and will take approximately one year to complete. The School Department offices, currently leasing space at 1600 Osgood Street, will move into the new building in late Spring 2015.

**May 2014:** ATM will be asked to appropriate \$6,377,767 to fund the construction of a new Fire Station 1 (\$5,940,000) and the architect/engineering design work for the renovation of the former Fire Station 1 into offices for the Community Development Division (\$437,767), currently located at 1600 Osgood Street.

**Thank you for supporting these important projects. The Facilities Master Plan is on target and on budget!**

## NEWS FROM THE SCHOOL DEPARTMENT

So often we see or hear news worthy of celebration only to hear comments such as, "If they did it this way it could be better" or "That can surely be improved." It seems that the desire for an even better product or performance outweighs the opportunity to celebrate a moment of success or to even be thankful for the amount of success that was obtained.

Consider the story of Olympic gymnast, Bart Connor, who 9 months before the 1984 Olympics tore his bicep muscle for which he needed to have surgery followed by intense physical therapy. The general consensus was that he would not be able to return to the level of performance needed to compete at the Olympic level. For those of you to whom this event is ancient history, Bart did manage to participate in the Olympics and won two gold medals, one as part of the men's team and one in the parallel bars individual competition in which he scored a perfect 10.

During a subsequent television interview, Bart gave credit and thanks to his parents.

The interviewer commented, "Come on Bart, everyone thanks their parents when they win a gold medal." In reply, Bart provided a perspective on celebrating success and its significance to achieving further achievement. Bart responded, "Every night before bed my parents would ask me what my success was. So I went to bed a success every night of my life. I woke up every morning a success. When I was injured before the Olympics, I knew I was going to make it back because I was a success every day of my life."

In our schools, we have many successes to celebrate. Whether it's improved student achievement scores, examples of

demonstrating respectful citizenship, musical performances, art displays, academic competitions, athletic contests or individual student writing pieces, each event allows for the celebration of success. While we all acknowledge each example can have room for improvement, being thankful for the success obtained contributes to additional incentive to improve.

During this season of giving thanks and recognizing others, many examples of success exist within our schools and community that deserve to be highlighted:

To the teachers and staff who each day exhibit dedication and professionalism to educating our students.

To the office staffs who each day shuffle myriads of tasks to assist in the effective management of school, district, and municipal offices.

To the support staff who each day contribute to maintaining a healthy and safe school environment.

To the administrators who each day tirelessly demonstrate management and leadership skills to support teaching and learning.

To parents and community members who each day volunteer talent and energy to the schools as well as guiding the children of this community to be responsible citizens outside of school.

And finally, to the students who each day demonstrate an eagerness for learning, a respect for themselves and others, and a commitment to hard work and perseverance.

You are all successful!

Best wishes for a season of thanks.

## NEWS FROM THE NORTH ANDOVER SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

As temperatures cool down, the North Andover Sustainability Committee (NASC) would like to share our exciting plans for the upcoming year.

As a town committee we exist to serve you as a resource and advocate to promote environmental sustainability for the well-being of the community. We focus on resource conservation, energy efficiency, and waste reduction to achieve these aims. With the changing winter season, we have added four new members to our ranks. Shep Spear, Katie Champagne, Craig Lemerise, and Mike Carney have all recently joined and we are eager for them to bring their new ideas and enthusiasm to our committee. Additional new members are welcome – contact us at northandoveresc@gmail.com if you are interested.

Over the past few months we have created a multifaceted plan to educate North Andover residents about two new areas of opportunity that are growing in the Commonwealth: residential solar electricity and anaerobic digestion.

The Commonwealth's Clean Energy and Climate Plan for 2020 called for 250 megawatts of solar power installations. This has been met four years early, and Governor Patrick has set an aggressive new goal of 1,600 MW by 2020. To meet this goal there are a wide variety of loan and leasing strategies available to fi-

nance residential solar photovoltaic installations. In addition, tax credits, rebates and other subsidies made possible by state and federal programs can be obtained. The NASC will provide up-to-date information, and if there is interest, apply to be part of the next round of the Solarize Mass program.

Secondly, we will bring attention to the statewide Organics Waste Ban. Effective July 1st, 2014, any company or organization that produces more than one ton of organic waste a week – including refuse such as weeds and manure – will need to dispose of it by composting, donating what is edible to food pantries, or sending it to one of the new anaerobic digestion plants being planned around the state. Anaerobic digesters convert methane from food into electrical power. The methane, a potent greenhouse gas that contributes to global warming, is contained in the plants and not released into the atmosphere.

Lastly, we will continue promoting recycling to residents; this tradition is central to our purpose and education is key to increasing recycling rates.



## NEWS FROM THE DIVISION OF PUBLIC WORKS

### STREETLIGHT OUTAGES

The Town has contracted with a new vendor for repairs of streetlights – Siemens. To report an outage please go to the Town's website ([www.townofnorthandover.com](http://www.townofnorthandover.com)) and click on

Division of Public Works. Under the list of additional links you'll find the link that directs you to Siemens. You can also call Siemens directly, 24 hours a day at 1-800-544-4876 or (1-800-LIGHTSON).